

## Current Health Event

### Emergency preparedness

2 July 2014, in the context of emergency preparedness, WHO Lebanon provided the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) with 13 vehicles with the support of the Kuwaiti emergency fund.

### Editorial note:

Risk to public health respect no boundaries and countries need to build strong capacities to respond to emerging threats. Lebanon is no exception where disease outbreaks may represent a real threat.

In compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), Lebanon should have the capacity to detect and track acute public health events, sound the alarm when needed and mount coordinated responses.

In this context of emergency preparedness, WHO Lebanon supported the MoPH at several levels.

An emergency operation center (EOC) and a professional training center (PTC) were established as preventive measures in case of emergence of locally acquired or imported disease outbreaks.

EOC can be used in case of epidemic-prone, environmental and natural disasters, other acute public health events caused by accidental or deliberate use of chemical, radio-nuclear and natural disasters.

EOC is part of the WHO's Global Alert and Response (GAR) and is linked to the Strategic Health Operations Center (SHOC) in Geneva and to a network of emergency operations centers around the world.



WHO Lebanon in collaboration with the MoPH also developed an atlas for health facilities in Lebanon using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

These interactive maps can be used in responding to public health emergencies.

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### Scope of IHR 2005:

The International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) are the world's first legally binding agreement in the fight against public health emergencies of international concern such as those caused by new and re-emerging diseases with epidemic potential, as well as those associated with acute chemical or radio-nuclear events.

to assist the network of primary health care centers, the surveillance unit, the communicable diseases unit and the TB control programme. All those efforts are made toward increasing the capacity of the MoPH to respond to emerging public health threats, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

### Cumulative Notifiable diseases in Lebanon (Syrian)

| Disease                             | 2013<br>Cumul | 2014<br>Cumul* | Jun    | Jul  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------|------|
| <b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b> |               |                |        |      |
| Polio                               | 0(0)          | 0(0)           | 0(0)   | 0(0) |
| Acute Flaccid Paralysis             | 34(7)         | 17(6)          | 2(0)   | 0(0) |
| Measles                             | 1760(232)     | 207(79)        | 19(8)  | 0(0) |
| Mumps                               | 14(2)         | 277(37)        | 13(4)  | 0(0) |
| Pertussis                           | 59(9)         | 39(12)         | 6(0)   | 0(0) |
| Rabies                              | 1(1)          | 0(0)           | 0(0)   | 0(0) |
| Rubella                             | 27(1)         | 11(6)          | 1(0)   | 0(0) |
| Tetanus                             | 4(0)          | 0(0)           | 0(0)   | 0(0) |
| Viral Hep B                         | 141(8)        | 114(14)        | 16(0)  | 0(0) |
| <b>Water/Food Borne Diseases</b>    |               |                |        |      |
| Brucellosis                         | 189(12)       | 121(14)        | 23(1)  | 0(0) |
| Hydatid cyst                        | 13(3)         | 9(0)           | 0(0)   | 0(0) |
| Typhoid Fever                       | 407(21)       | 88(7)          | 11(2)  | 0(0) |
| Viral Hep A                         | 1551(220)     | 651(109)       | 40(4)  | 0(0) |
| <b>Other Diseases</b>               |               |                |        |      |
| Leishmaniasis                       | 1033(1032)    | 312(310)       | 12(12) | 0(0) |
| Meningitis                          | 204(24)       | 98(10)         | 12(2)  | 0(0) |
| Viral Hep C                         | 103(4)        | 42(1)          | 7(0)   | 0(0) |

Source: Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon